

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064265
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FWISNER:BABS
APPROVED BY S/S:FWISNER
NSC:MR. INDERFURTH
WHITE HOUSE:MR. WISE
AF:MR. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064265

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT--SCHEDULING APRIL 2

REF: LAGOS 3113

1. WE DO NOT WISH TO ANNOUNCE THE CANCELLATION OF THE KANO TRIP UNTIL WE HAVE DEVELOPED A PUBLIC RATIONALE FOR DOING SO. BEFORE FORMALLY CANCELING, WE WISH TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE MINI-SUMMIT WILL BE HELD. IN ADDITION, WE WANT TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE NIGERIANS' HOLDING US RESPONSIBLE FOR CANCELING KANO. WE UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE WITH RESPECT TO A VISIT TO KANO, WHICH WE BOTH AGREE IS
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INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY.

2. YOU SHOULD RAISE WITH THE NIGERIANS AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE OUR INTEREST IN PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND OBASANJO. YOU MIGHT POINT OUT TO THE NIGERIANS THAT ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR GOING TO KANO WAS TO GIVE

THE PRESIDENT A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH OBASANJO. NOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND OBASANJO CANNOT GO, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A SCHEDULE WHICH WILL PERMIT ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS. YOU MIGHT ALSO MENTION GARBA'S THOUGHTS ON THE MINI-SUMMIT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH OBASANJO AND OBASANJO HAS AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE. YOU COULD THEN ASK THE NIGERIANS WHAT SORT OF SCHEDULE THEY WOULD PROPOSE FOR APRIL 2 WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BILATERAL TIME AS WELL AS TIME FOR A MINI-SUMMIT IF THAT EVENT IS CONFIRMED. IN THIS CONTEXT, YOU MIGHT INDICATE WE ARE NOT PRESSING FOR COMPLETION OF ARRANGEMENTS IN KANO.

3. THE RECOMMENDATIONS YOU PRESENTED IN PARA 4, REFTTEL, WILL BE CONSIDERED; BUT AS YOU POINT OUT, THE NIGERIANS MAY HAVE OTHER IDEAS THAT MEET THEIR WISH TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT ASSOCIATED WITH MODERN NIGERIA. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEIR THOUGHTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. TENTATIVELY, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A DRAFT SCHEDULE WHICH YOU MIGHT DRAW FROM IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NIGERIANS:

0920 - DEPART STATE HOUSE MARINA
0930 - ARRIVE DODAN BARRACKS-BILATERAL
1030 - DEPART TO CHURCH
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1100 - ARRIVE CHURCH
1200 - DEPART CHURCH
1215 - ARRIVE STATE HOUSE MARINA-PRIVATE LUNCH
1445 - DEPART STATE HOUSE MARINA
1500 - TOUR DOCK FACILITIES
1530 - DEPART DOCK FACILITIES
1545 - ARRIVE DODAN BARRACKS-SIGN COMMUNIQUE
1615 - DEPART DODAN BARRACKS
1630 - ARRIVE STATE HOUSE MARINA-FREE TIME

5. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER OBASANJO WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO CHURCH. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH AND DRIVING TIMES SHOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRE-ADVANCE.

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